



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Management Closely Monitoring Potential Flooding Impact to Greene County

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri – The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is closely monitoring the potential for significant area-wide flooding this weekend as up to 8” of rain is currently predicted to fall across the area from Friday evening through Sunday. With soils already saturated from recent rainfall, any additional accumulation will quickly overwhelm creeks, rivers and low water crossings. A Flash Flood Watch is in effect for Greene County from Friday evening through Sunday evening.

“We encourage citizens to be mindful of the weather this weekend and to allow extra travel time to get to their destinations. It won’t save you time to cross a water-covered roadway if your vehicle gets stuck and you need to be rescued,” said Larry Woods, interim OEM director.

OEM’s watch officers are operating in an enhanced monitoring state, paying specific attention to flood-prone areas across the county, and are communicating with local response agencies to ensure equipment and resources are ready for deployment if requested. OEM is also working in coordination with the National Weather Service to remain updated on developing weather forecasts and provide situational updates to elected officials and regional partners.

So what can the public do to prepare?

- Remain updated on changing weather conditions and monitor NOAA weather radios for real-time weather alerts.
- “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” when approaching water covered roadways. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car and only a few inches to stall your vehicle, causing you to become stranded in dangerous weather. Heed road barricades and road closed signs and don’t attempt to navigate around them.
- Allow extra time for travel and have alternate routes in mind, should a road be closed or impassable. Keep in mind, in fast changing weather conditions, road crews may not be able to immediately close a road that is impassable.
- Create a family emergency plan and have a fully-stocked preparedness kit on hand in the event of a power outage.

“Flash floods kill more people in the U.S. than any other natural disaster,” said Woods. “Flash Flooding demands caution.”

“Should your vehicle get stuck, it not only presents a dangerous situation for you, but also for the emergency responders that have to rescue you,” said Interim Springfield Fire Chief David Pennington. “Water rescues are the single most dangerous rescue firefighters encounter. Help us keep them and you safe during this dangerous weather event.”

For more flood safety tips, visit the National Weather Service’s flood safety webpage at <http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/>.

For more information, contact Erin Hedlun, OEM Public Information Officer at 417-869-6040 (office), 417-860-0903 (cell) or ehedlun@greenecountymo.gov.